

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ZHANG ZIYI, an individual,)
)
Plaintiff,)
)
vs.) CASE NO.
) CV 12-5216-DMG (PLAX)
CHINA FREE PRESS, INC., a)
North Carolina non-profit)
corporation doing business as)
BOXUN NEWS; WEICAN NULL MENG,)
an individual also known as)
WATSON MENG and also known as)
WEICAN "WATSON" MENG; DOES)
1-25, inclusive,)
)
Defendants.)
)

VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITION OF WEICAN "WATSON" NULL MENG
VOLUME II
Las Vegas, Nevada
Wednesday, October 17, 2012

REPORTED BY: PEGGY S. ELIAS, RPR
Nevada CCR No. 274 - California CSR No. 8671
JOB NO.: 168132

1 Deposition of WEICAN "WATSON" NULL MENG,
2 VOLUME II, taken at Glaser Weil Fink Jacobs Howard &
3 Shapiro LLP, 3763 Howard Hughes Parkway, Suite 300,
4 Las Vegas, Nevada, on Wednesday, October 17, 2012, at
5 10:31 a.m., before Peggy S. Elias, Certified Court
6 Reporter in and for the State of Nevada.

7

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9

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28 YAOMIN LEI, INTERPRETER
29 XIAOSHENG HUANG

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1 of the -- anything relevant to China. So when we
2 started report the Zhang Ziyi scandal, it was
3 classified and the hot topic of Bo Xilai, Wang Lijun.

4 (To interpreter) You can spell that.

5 THE INTERPRETER: Wang Lijun.

6 THE WITNESS: Jun, J-u...

7 THE INTERPRETER: J-u-n.

8 THE WITNESS: J-u-n, yeah.

9 THE INTERPRETER: J-u-n.

10 THE WITNESS: Okay, Wang Lijun. W-a-n-g.

11 THE INTERPRETER: Yeah.

12 THE WITNESS: L-i-j-u-n, Wang Lijun.

13 Just so you know -- you know, usually you
14 print out the report on Zhang Ziyi, the -- you know,
15 particularly -- particularly, we printed under this
16 whole scandal of Bo Xilai, not Zhang Ziyi.

17 So this is not a small, you know, case. If
18 you read the history of Boxun, we have so many
19 journalists in China ended in jail. There's two of
20 them who I know. One is Li Changqing, L-i
21 C-h-a-n-g-q-i-n-g.

22 He was jailed three years just because he
23 wrote a report to us to expose one of the dengue fever,
24 d-e-n-g-u-e, fever, f-e-v-e-r. There's, you know,
25 disease; just the simple -- you know, he simply

1 reported something happening, and then he was sentenced
2 three years in jail.

3 Another journalist, Sun Lin, S-u-n L-i-n, he
4 reported human rights issues in his city --

5 (Reporter interrupted.)

6 Human rights issues. And he was arrested in
7 2007 and sentenced four years, and also his wife
8 received -- received one-year sentence because his wife
9 helped him to took -- to take videos of, you know, some
10 human rights abuse cases.

11 So this is -- Zhang Ziyi case, you know,
12 Bo Xilai scandal is biggest in the last few decades in
13 China. So we can imagine how important to Chinese
14 government, how much they care, you know, who gave us
15 the information.

16 It's not -- we're not trying to make it looks
17 dangerous. It is dangerous. If the source be known by
18 anybody, by Chinese government, I don't think the
19 person will be in jail a few years. More likely will
20 be killed for some reason.

21 That's common practice in China. So that's
22 why, you know, certain information I cannot give that's
23 not -- not necessary. I'm not willing to give but just
24 I can't.

25 ///

1 **Q. Did the source come to you with this story,**
2 **or did you go to the source?**

3 A. I would say it's a development, not -- I did
4 not, you know, ask anybody to say can we find any
5 stories about Zhang Ziyi. No, this is not the case.
6 As I said, this report came out. It's part of a story
7 we had been reporting since February 2nd.

8 So this is a story came up when I discussed
9 with my sources about the development of the case
10 Zhang -- sorry, Bo Xilai scandal.

11 THE INTERPRETER: Bo Xilai scandal.

12 THE WITNESS: So -- I'm not sure this answers
13 your question.

14 BY MR. LE BERTHON:

15 **Q. How many sources provided you information for**
16 **purposes of this article?**

17 A. I would say this story was produced based on
18 my research. Also, I talked to different people. At
19 first, when I learned Zhang Ziyi slept with Bo Xilai --

20 THE INTERPRETER: Slept with Bo Xilai.

21 THE WITNESS: -- I could not believe it; so I
22 even challenged my source, but my source or my sources
23 told me more than this. I learned much more than what
24 we published; so...

25 For example, one source told me Zhang Ziyi is

1 a professional prostitute. I asked -- I asked why.

2 The person told me Zhang Ziyi goes after businessmen in
3 parties. If she knows a businessman has a lot of
4 money, she will approach the person, say something like
5 do you have time tonight.

6 So that's -- also, I learned a story -- not
7 story -- something she did. When she was making movie
8 in Tianjin, T-i-a-n-j-i-n, is a city about 100 miles
9 east of Beijing.

10 THE INTERPRETER: 100 miles east of Beijing.

11 THE WITNESS: On the way back to Beijing from
12 Tianjin, there was a driver. There was another guy
13 sitting in the passenger's seat in front. Zhang Ziyi
14 was sitting in the back seat with a person who
15 sponsored the movie. So I was told Zhang Ziyi had
16 inappropriate actions in the car, kind of sex; I don't
17 know what kind of sex.

18 So I did some research, too. In 2010,
19 January, Zhang Ziyi was in another scandal that was
20 reported widely in China newspapers.

21 THE INTERPRETER: Was reported widely in
22 China newspaper.

23 THE WITNESS: Widely.

24 In that sandal Zhang Ziyi was -- said, you
25 know, was reported, she received about 200 million RMB

1 from Mr. A, a businessman in Shanghai. She did not
2 give the name of the businessman.

3 MR. RANDAZZA: 200 million what?

4 THE WITNESS: 200 million RMB.

5 THE INTERPRETER: RMB.

6 THE WITNESS: Not money. Not only money.
7 It's like properties, jewelries.

8 So that -- that scandal made Zhang Ziyi a
9 lawsuit against a lady who was suspicious that her to
10 expose this to media. So that's a big story and --

11 THE INTERPRETER: Was suspicion, who's
12 suspicious about the one who leaked the story out.

13 THE WITNESS: I also learned from Zhao Yan,
14 Z-h-a-o Y-a-n -- Zhao Yan is in New York now. He used
15 to work for New York Times in Beijing, but in 2007
16 Zhao Yan was sentenced three years because of -- he was
17 suspicious of leaking the information of the Chinese
18 leaders to the foreign media, but he denied although --
19 but she served in jail -- he, sorry -- he served in
20 jail for three years, from 2007 to 2009.

21 One information he told me, when he was in
22 jail, one of his inmate -- now this inmate is in
23 New Zealand, and he --

24 THE INTERPRETER: He's in New Zealand. He's
25 in New Zealand.

1 THE WITNESS: That inmate was a businessman,
2 told him the businessman himself slept with Zhang Ziyi
3 by paying the money --

4 THE INTERPRETER: The businessman himself has
5 slept with Zhang Ziyi.

6 THE WITNESS: So all the pieces -- also, of
7 course, in Chinese media or Internet, there was list of
8 businessmen that people say --

9 THE INTERPRETER: A list of the businessmen
10 who say.

11 THE WITNESS: -- have close relationship with
12 Zhang Ziyi, and so all pieces press with me, Zhang Ziyi
13 is not surprise anymore.

14 (Reporter interrupted.)

15 THE INTERPRETER: No, all this story has --

16 THE WITNESS: All the pieces of --

17 THE INTERPRETER: All pieces of --

18 THE WITNESS: -- the information --

19 THE INTERPRETER: -- the information.

20 THE WITNESS: -- make me believe what I was
21 told, but we did not report Zhang Ziyi as a prostitute.
22 We did not report information -- I'll say report those
23 dirtiest part of what we believe Zhang Ziyi has been
24 doing. We only choose small part we learned has a
25 connection with the politics in China.

1 MR. RANDAZZA: Did you say what, the dirtiest
2 part?

3 THE WITNESS: No.

4 MR. RANDAZZA: Oh, what did you say?

5 THE WITNESS: Yes, we did not report the
6 dirtiest of her personal or private life.

7 BY MR. LE BERTHON:

8 Q. **Sir, so I'm clear, how many sources did you**
9 **use for this article that's been marked as Exhibit 11**
10 **dated May 28, 2012?**

11 A. Directly relevant source, I would say two,
12 but indirectly, for those, you know, relevant to
13 Zhang Ziyi's behavior, I would say multiple --

14 THE INTERPRETER: Multiple.

15 THE WITNESS: -- resources for the whole
16 report. I mean, directly relevant, the inmate of
17 Zhao Yan who was a friend of Xu Ming. So that's
18 direct --

19 MR. RANDAZZA: Was what?

20 THE INTERPRETER: A friend of Xu Ming.

21 THE WITNESS: Xu Ming, the businessman in
22 this report, X-u M-i-n-g.

23 These are the classmates or close friend.
24 Beyond that, Zhang Ziyi was not be able to attend two
25 big international movie festivals in that period of

1 time. So, as a regular person, the people -- that's
2 part of indirect evidence. She was banned to leave the
3 country at that period.

4 THE INTERPRETER: She was banned to leave the
5 country.

6 BY MR. LE BERTHON:

7 Q. **Just because Ms. Zhang didn't attend these**
8 **two movie festivals, you believe that's evidence that**
9 **she was forbidden from leaving China?**

10 A. I would say that's only part of the indirect
11 information support what I learned. I learned she was
12 not allowed to leave the country at that time.

13 Q. **Okay. You said there were two sources of**
14 **information for this article?**

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. **Who were the sources? What were their names?**

17 A. As we discussed earlier, I cannot give the
18 names.

19 MR. RANDAZZA: I'm going to object to the
20 question on the basis of relevance.

21 THE WITNESS: The only name I can say or
22 mention is Zhao Yan. So he can be one of the source.
23 The name can be known. So for other sources I cannot
24 name; I cannot give off the name.

25 ///

1 BY MR. LE BERTHON:

2 Q. So I'm clear, then, your understanding is
3 Xu Ming was interrogated by the Chinese government;
4 that Xu Ming disclosed as part of the interrogation
5 that Zhang Ziyi had a relationship with Xu Ming,
6 correct?

7 A. This part is correct. Not complete.

8 Q. Oh, I'm not done.

9 And it is your understanding that, as part of
10 the interrogation, Xu Ming also disclosed that
11 Zhang Ziyi worked as a prostitute and had sex with
12 Bo Xilai; is that what you're telling me?

13 A. I would put it this way: Yes, Xu Ming told
14 the interrogating, Xu Ming himself has a relationship
15 with Zhang Ziyi. Also, Zhang Ziyi slept with Bo Xilai,
16 but this part of the story I don't think we should put
17 Zhang Ziyi under the title of prostitute. It's more
18 like in the U.S., gold digger, especially in China,
19 as --

20 MR. RANDAZZA: Like what?

21 THE WITNESS: A gold digger.

22 THE INTERPRETER: Gold digger.

23 MR. RANDAZZA: Gold digger?

24 THE WITNESS: Yeah.

25 It's very -- in China, I don't think

1 Zhang Ziyi has a choice if -- you know, if a politician
2 wants to sleep with a movie star, more likely the movie
3 star has no choice. You have to do so. So in this
4 case all of this been arranged by Xu Ming.

5 THE INTERPRETER: All this was arranged by Xu
6 Ming.

7 THE WITNESS: So Xu Ming was trying to please
8 a politician. Xu Ming was trying to get business from
9 this politician because of arranged woman, gave him a
10 bribery.

11 THE INTERPRETER: Gave bribery.

12 THE WITNESS: So that's part of the operation
13 of Xu Ming. I don't think -- it's not necessarily
14 Zhang Ziyi herself going after Bo Xilai to ask for
15 money to have sex.

16 So for this story I don't think -- you know,
17 we did not put Zhang Ziyi as a prostitute. When I say
18 Zhang Ziyi has more things she has done but we did not
19 report, which was this part; I don't think, you know,
20 that people should think that way as a prostitute;
21 so...

22 BY MR. LE BERTHON:

23 Q. **Sir, what I'm trying to understand is how**
24 **your source of information -- this person whose name**
25 **you won't provide to me -- I'm trying to understand how**

1 **he knows or claimed to know that Zhang Ziyi was a**
2 **prostitute and had slept with Bo Xilai? How did he**
3 **know this?**

4 MR. RANDAZZA: Object to the form of the
5 question. I believe he's testified he was saying gold
6 digger and not prostitute, and there's a distinction
7 here. So do you want to reform that question?

8 MR. LE BERTHON: No.

9 THE WITNESS: As I said, all of this -- these
10 details were from the mouths of Xu Ming. So Xu Ming
11 told the interrogators what he did for Bo Xilai.

12 BY MR. LE BERTHON:

13 **Q. Who are the interrogators?**

14 A. I would say it's highly classified
15 information in China. I did not ask. I don't know.

16 **Q. Did your source tell you that one of the**
17 **interrogators told him that Zhang Ziyi has a**
18 **relationship with Bo Xilai?**

19 A. I did not ask exactly, you know, who, you
20 know, gave the information, why the interrogator
21 directly told him [unintelligible] was the location,
22 told him that. I'm --

23 THE INTERPRETER: Whether this interrogator
24 told him directly or --

25 THE WITNESS: What the location.

1 Zhang Ziyi. That I guarantee. They are totally
2 different business, different persons; so...

3 **Q. This unnamed source, how long has this
4 unnamed source been providing information to you?**

5 A. I would say a few years. I forgot which year
6 exactly started with. I knew -- I would say almost all
7 the information I learned from this source turned out
8 to be true.

9 **Q. What other kinds of information has this
10 source provided you with that has served as a basis for
11 other Boxun articles?**

12 A. I have some examples. I was focused on, you
13 know, the Bo Xilai case because, you know, this is a
14 case from February, I learned that from the same
15 source, all turned out to be true.

16 MR. RANDAZZA: You can -- well, you should
17 give him a copy of that and mark it as an exhibit.

18 THE WITNESS: Yeah, I got few examples from
19 there.

20 MR. RANDAZZA: Do you have one?

21 MR. DEVOY: I have one of them here.

22 MR. RANDAZZA: This is yours. Hold on.

23 THE WITNESS: Yeah, basically, you know, on
24 February 2nd --

25 MR. RANDAZZA: Let's get some copies of this

1 It's well-recognized by the media.

2 As I say, Financial Times say, but much of
3 the efforts have been undone by Boxun, a U.S. based
4 website which has been reporting on every twist and
5 turn of the Bo Xilai case with unusual accuracy. I
6 think that's the -- and they recognize track record on
7 this case; so they trust Boxun. I trust the source.

8 Q. **You only started publishing -- Boxun only
9 started publishing information relating to the Bo Xilai
10 scandal around February of 2012; is that correct, sir?**

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. **Okay. But you had a relationship with this
13 source and the source has provided you with information
14 over a period of time that predates that; is that
15 correct, as well?**

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. **Okay. What other kinds of information did
18 this -- has this source in the past provided to you
19 that has served as the basis for other Boxun news
20 articles?**

21 A. I would like -- only gave relevant report on
22 this case because the more information I gave out, say,
23 you know, earlier, maybe last year, which imparted
24 information from this source, that will give the
25 Chinese government a pattern to track down who is this

1 guy. So that's -- that's the number one reason.

2 I don't want the source that gave any
3 relevant information on this source to give Chinese
4 government opportunities to track down the person.

5 Number two, it's -- you know, number two is
6 irrelevant, and it will use so many, you know, energy
7 from me to track the record who, you know, from this
8 source or what reported earlier in Chinese, and I need
9 a lot of translation explanation, and I'm not supposed
10 to sit here to waste my time, but I have to.

11 Boxun does not have a lot of resource. I'm
12 sitting here. A lot of reports from China cannot be
13 publishing. That's because we report something I
14 believe even today is true.

15 **Q. Mr. Meng, just so I'm clear, then, you are
16 not going to tell me about other information provided
17 to you by this same source that provides the -- that
18 provided the basis for this May 28, 2012, article other
19 than information about Bo Xilai, which --**

20 MR. RANDAZZA: Objection.

21 BY MR. LE BERTHON:

22 **Q. -- didn't start until approximately
23 February of this year --**

24 MR. RANDAZZA: Objection.

25 ///

1 Yes.

2 Q. **And it's my understanding, I guess, from your**
3 **counsel that you are refusing to testify in Chinese and**
4 **insist on testifying in English; is that correct, sir?**

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. **Mr. Meng, if I could call your attention to**
7 **the document which was previously marked as Exhibit 12,**
8 **this is the Boxun article dated May 30, 2012.**

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. **Do you have that before you, sir?**

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. **How did this article come about?**

13 MR. RANDAZZA: Is this the same article we
14 were talking about before?

15 THE WITNESS: No, different.

16 MR. RANDAZZA: Okay.

17 THE WITNESS: Yeah, this -- my best memory is
18 when the first news came out about the Zhang Ziyi,
19 could not -- Zhang Ziyi got trouble by this scandal,
20 the people -- is the people thought the media say that
21 Zhang Ziyi was kind of the -- under investigation. She
22 could not travel domestically in China.

23 THE INTERPRETER: Was under investigation in
24 China.

25 THE WITNESS: So, basically, this is

1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

2 STATE OF NEVADA)
3) ss:
4 COUNTY OF CLARK)

5 I, Peggy S. Elias, a Certified Court Reporter
6 licensed by the State of Nevada, do hereby certify:
7 That I reported the deposition of WEICAN "WATSON" NULL
8 MENG, on Wednesday, October 17, 2012, at 10:31 a.m.

9 That prior to being deposed, the witness was
10 duly sworn by me to testify to the truth. That I
11 thereafter transcribed my said stenographic notes via
12 computer-aided transcription into written form, and
13 that the typewritten transcript is a complete, true and
14 accurate transcription of my said stenographic notes.
15 That review of the transcript was requested.

16 I further certify that I am not a relative,
17 employee or independent contractor of counsel or of any
18 of the parties involved in the proceeding; nor a person
19 financially interested in the proceeding; nor do I have
20 any other relationship that may reasonably cause my
impartiality to be questioned.

21 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand in my
22 office in the County of Clark, State of Nevada, this
23 18th day of October, 2012.

24

25

PEGGY S. ELIAS, RPR, CCR NO. 274